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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

1. THE EPIDENDRUM VENOSUM OF FLORIDA.

BY WILLIAM TRELEASE.

Occasional reference has been made to the occurrence of *Epidendrum venosum*, Lindley, in southern Florida,* the only other species of the genus commonly recognized as pertaining to that flora having been *E. conopseum*, Brown, until the recent appearance of the third edition of Dr. Chapman's Flora, which adds *E. Tampense*, Lindl., *E. cochleatum*, L., *E. umbellatum*, Sw., and *E. nocturnum*, L., while *E. venosum* has been dropped from the southern flora.

In February 1893, while collecting along the St. John's river, Mess. W. T. Swingle and Theo. Holm found some fine specimens of what has passed for *E. venosum*, which they sent to the Garden, where, subsequently, a number of other collections of the same species have been received and kept under observation for several years. All of these pertain to *E. Tampense*, Lindl.†

Epidendrum Tampense was first collected on Tampa Bay, Florida, by Dr. Torrey, many years ago, and was found in Miami by Garber in 1877, and on the Hillsboro river by Curtiss (no. 2805). Within the last few years it has been collected at various points in the southern part of the State, and Mr. T. L. Mead informs me that at Oviedo (as is doubtless true at many other places), it is abundant. It belongs to Lindley's subgenus *Encyclium*, which has the stem enlarged into a pseudobulb, flowers not subtended by a spathe, and the labellum only slightly adnate to the column — whereas in the greater part of the genus it is attached much further up this member. The trilobed labellum, with the lateral lobes longer than broad and the median lobe broadened, marks it as belonging to the group *Hymenochila* of Lindley.

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* *e. g.* Chapman, Flo. So. U. S. 1 ed. 455. American Agriculturist. **33:** 344. 1874.

† Lindley, Bot. Register, n. s. **10,** under pl. 35. 1847; Folia Orchidacea, Epidendrum, no. 34, p. 12. 1853. Britton, Trans. N. Y. Acad. 1889, p. 12. Chapman, Flo. So. U. S. 3 ed. p. 480. 1897.

Though one of the plainer species, it is worthy of cultivation, and succeeds well with ordinary treatment. The appearance of its flowers is well shown in the appended colored plate, which is reproduced from a water color sketch by Miss Grace E. Johnson.

In February, 1896, the Garden received from the Mexican Plant Company, of Maravatio, an orchid which bloomed in April of the same year and then proved to be the true *Epidendrum venosum* of Lindley.* In this species the claw of the 3-parted labellum is adnate to the basal half of the column, and the raceme of flowers is terminal on the pseudobulb stems,— characters which place it in Lindley's section *Aulizeum*. The following description, drawn from the living specimen by Mr. C. H. Thompson, and the accompanying halftone from a photograph, show how different this Mexican species is from that which has passed for it in Florida:—

The stem proper is cylindrical, 4–6 mm. in diameter and almost entirely enclosed by the close-fitting thin papery leaf scales. The pseudobulbs are about 3.5–4 cm. long, slightly compressed ovoid in the flowering ones to slightly compressed fusiform in some of the older and sterile ones — the two diameters ranging between 9 × 12 mm. in the latter and 18 × 28 mm. in the former, measured at their broadest points.

The fertile pseudo-bulb is crowned by three linear-lanceolate leaves about 13 cm. long by 15-18 mm. broad in the middle. From a straw-colored membranaceous sheath in the axil of the uppermost leaf rises the five-flowered raceme. The sheath is about 2 cm. long. Each flower is subtended by a minute clasping acute pointed triangular paleaceous bract about 3 mm. long. The two-ranked one-sided raceme is 11 cm. long. Peduncles about 12 mm. long and equaling the ovary. Sepals petal-like, spreading, linear-lanceolate, 13 mm. long, 3 mm. broad, acute, revolute, whitish-green on the back, ground color of the inner surface greenish-yellow, changing in age to orange-yellow, almost covered by five broad parallel brownish-purple lines extending from the base to very near the apex with similar transverse lines connecting them at regular intervals. The upper petals spreading, linear-lanceolate, 11 mm. long, scarcely over 2 mm. broad, gradually narrowing in the lower two-thirds to the base where they are only about half as broad as the sepals, giving them an almost linear-spatulate form, acute, slightly revolute. The coloring is exactly as in the sepals, with three distinct bands of purple and two outer narrower obscure ones. The lower petal, forming the lip, is of the same length, broader at the base (about 2 mm.) continuing the direction of the ovary. The basal portion, attached to the column, is about 3 mm. long and has the margins parallel. Beyond this the petal forms the obovate three-parted blade of the lip. Each lateral division is falcately elongated triangular, curving upward and inward, acute, body color white, with two prominent parallel purple lines extending about two-thirds its length, with two other obscure ones near the base, all confluent below, forming a broad line parallel with the column. The middle division is round ovate with a deflexed keel-like apex and crisp margin. The inner surface is marked with five much wrinkled almost parallel ridges, the middle one extending from the throat almost to the apex, the next pair slightly shorter, the outer pair about half as long. Near the end of this outer pair the margin has a more or less prominent fold. The ridges are finely wrinkled transversely. The throat is villous pubescent. Coloring is white throughout the upper surface when first opening, but with age gradually changing to ochre yellow, as does also the ground color of the lateral divisions. The under surface is green from base to apex with the margins of the middle lobe white as above. The column is triangular prismatic, about 6 mm. long by nearly 2 mm. broad, very slightly larger at the upper end. The body color is green. Two narrow purple lines extend along the margins from the base almost to the top, and one more or less broken one along the central ridge, becoming a mottled splotch toward the top. The column ends in three callous horns, one at each angle, the upper or central one slightly larger and truncate, the lateral ones rounded. These are white, changing to ochre yellow in age. In the fork of the three horns are situated the pollen masses with their cover. Seen from above, this cover is broadly oval, slightly constricted in the middle, yellow, changing to orange in age, with a row of purple dots along the lateral margins. The cap is supported behind by a minute spur, and below by the projecting upper part of the stigma. The four pollen masses are arranged in pairs by the recurved adherent caulicles of each end pair being united by their margins at a point near the base. The stigmatic surface is a deep glossy green-colored pit about 1 mm. in diameter.

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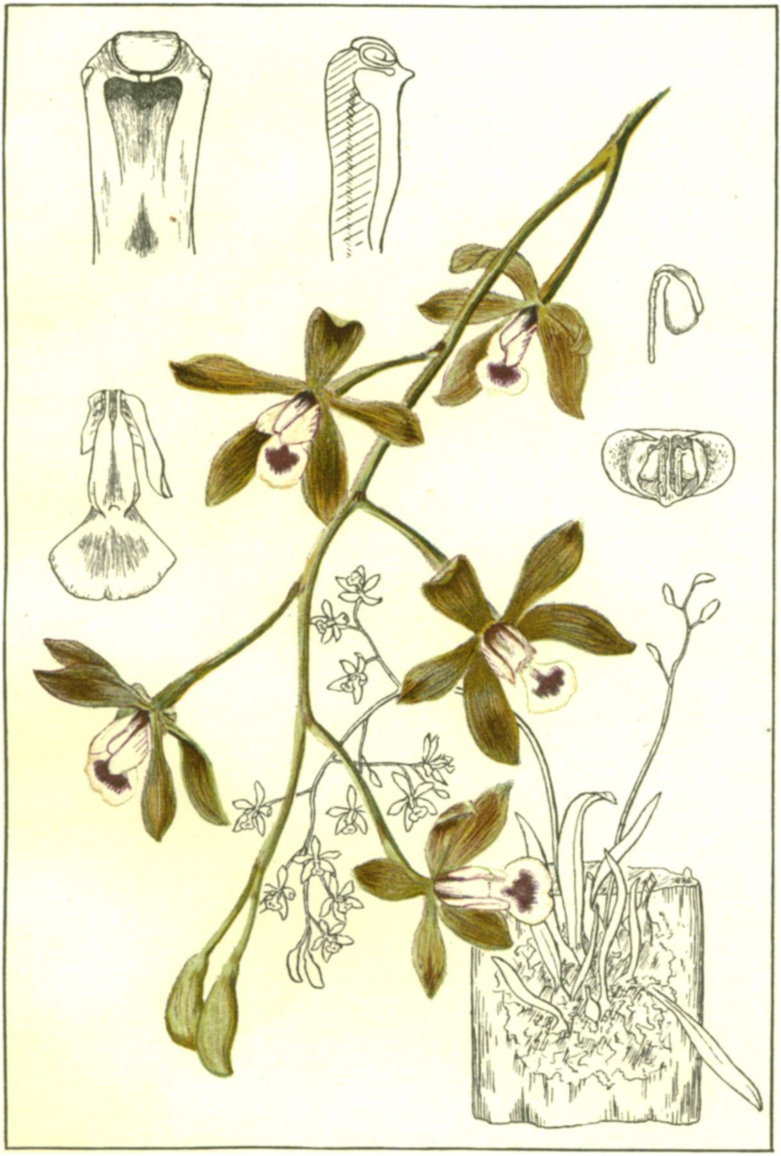
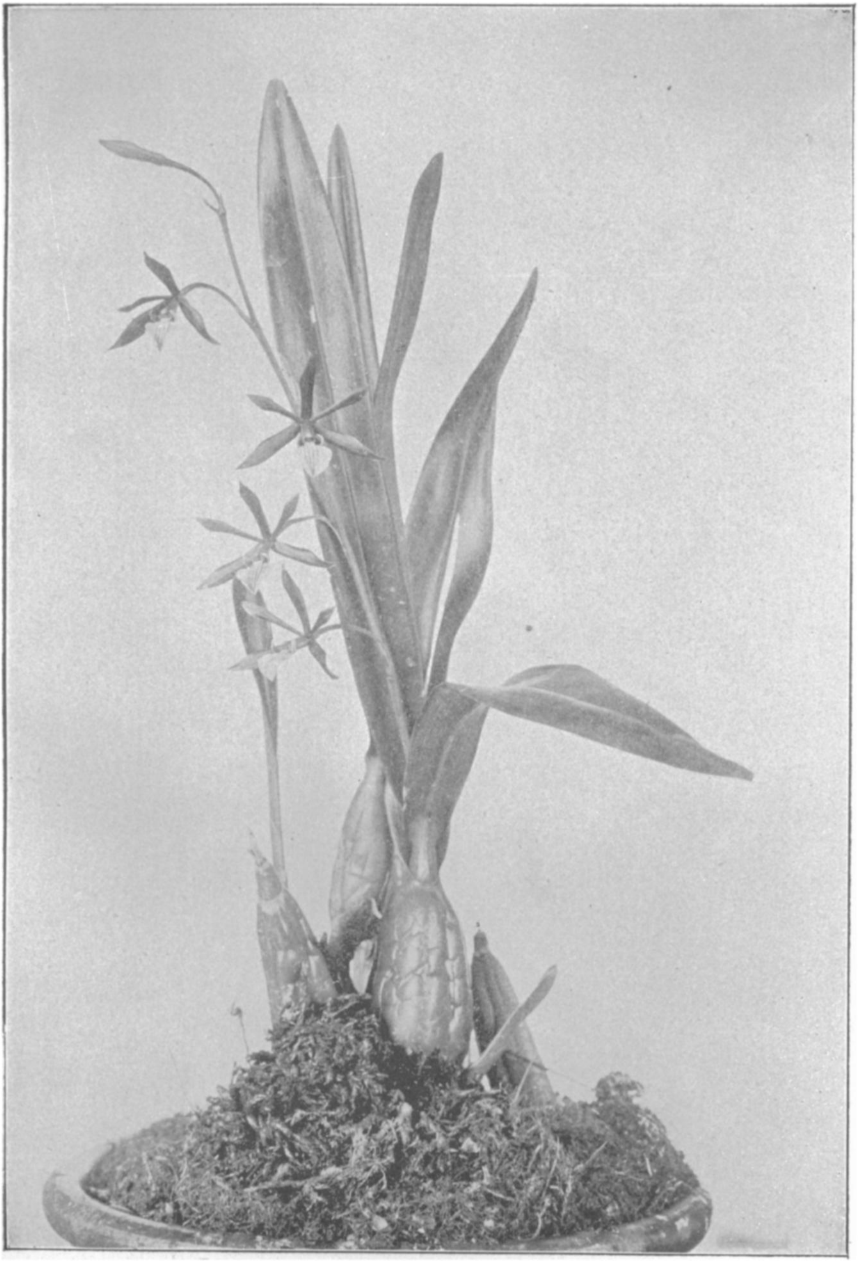
* Lindley, Genera and species of Ochidaceous Plants, p. 99. 1830–40; Folia Orchidacea, **1**, Epidendrum, p. 34. Jan. 1853. Bentham, Plantae Hartwegianae, p. 52. 1839.



EPIDENDRUM TAMPENSE.



EPIDENDRUM VENOSUM.